

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 – 7 (Previously Cancelled).

Claim 8 (Previously Added): A method of increasing drought resistance of a plant, comprising introducing a polynucleotide encoding a protein having raffinose synthase activity into the plant, wherein the polynucleotide expresses the protein in an amount sufficient to increase the drought resistance of the plant, wherein the drought resistance of the plant is higher compared to the plant prior to introducing the polynucleotide.

Claim 9 (Previously Added): The method of Claim 8, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of *Arabidopsis*, *Glycine*, *Vicia*, rape-seed, *Helianthus*, *Gossypium*, sugar beet, *Oryza*, *Saccharum*, corn, and *Sorghum*.

Claim 10 (Previously Added): The method of Claim 8, wherein said polynucleotide is introduced into the plant on a vector.

Claim 11 (Previously Added): The method of Claim 8, wherein said polynucleotide is introduced into a chromosome of the plant.

Claim 12 (Previously Added): The method of Claim 8, wherein the protein comprises the amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method of increasing drought resistance of a plant, comprising introducing a polynucleotide encoding a protein having raffinose synthase activity into the plant, wherein said polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO:2 or a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the stringent conditions comprise washing at 60°C in 1 X SSC and ~~0.1%~~ 0.1% SDS, wherein the polynucleotide expresses the protein in an amount sufficient to increase the drought resistance of the plant, and wherein the drought resistance of the plant is higher compared to the plant prior to introducing the polynucleotide.

Claim 14 (Previously Added): The method of Claim 13, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of *Arabidopsis*, *Glycine*, *Vicia*, rape-seed, *Helianthus*, *Gossypium*, sugar beet, *Oryza*, *Saccharum*, corn, and *Sorghum*.

Claim 15 (Previously Added): The method of Claim 13, wherein said polynucleotide is introduced into the plant on a vector.

Claim 16 (Previously Added): The method of Claim 13, wherein said polynucleotide is introduced into a chromosome of the plant.

Claim 17 (Previously Added): The method of Claim 13, wherein said polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 18 (Previously Added): A method of increasing resistance to high salt concentration in a plant, comprising introducing a polynucleotide encoding a protein having raffinose synthase activity into the plant, wherein the polynucleotide expresses the protein in

an amount sufficient to increase the resistance to high salt concentration in the plant, wherein the resistance to high salt concentration in the plant is higher compared to the plant prior to introducing the polynucleotide.

Claim 19 (Previously Added): The method of Claim 18, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of *Arabidopsis*, *Glycine*, *Vicia*, rape-seed, *Helianthus*, *Gossypium*, sugar beet, *Oryza*, *Saccharum*, corn, and *Sorghum*.

Claim 20 (Previously Added): The method of Claim 18, wherein said polynucleotide is introduced into the plant on a vector.

Claim 21 (Previously Added): The method of Claim 18, wherein said polynucleotide is introduced into a chromosome of the plant.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 18, wherein the protein comprises the amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO:1.[.]

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A method of increasing resistance to high salt concentration in a plant, comprising introducing a polynucleotide encoding a protein having raffinose synthase activity into the plant, wherein said polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO:2 or a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the stringent conditions comprise washing at 60°C in 1 X SSC and ~~0.1%~~ 0.1% SDS, wherein the polynucleotide expresses the protein in an amount sufficient to increase the resistance to high salt concentration in the plant, and wherein the salt resistance of the plant is higher compared to the plant prior to introducing the polynucleotide.

Claim 24 (Previously Added): The method of Claim 23, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of *Arabidopsis*, *Glycine*, *Vicia*, rape-seed, *Helianthus*, *Gossypium*, sugar beet, *Oryza*, *Saccharum*, corn, and *Sorghum*.

Claim 25 (Previously Added): The method of Claim 23, wherein said polynucleotide is introduced into the plant on a vector.

Claim 26 (Previously Added): The method of Claim 23, wherein said polynucleotide is introduced into a chromosome of the plant.

Claim 27 (Previously Added): The method of Claim 23, wherein said polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO:2.